

Tower Grove Park,  
Grand Avenue Entrance,  
St. Louis, Mo.

HABS No. MO-1137A

HABS

MO.

96 SALU

46A-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CENTRAL UNIT — ST. LOUIS

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer  
1592 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

Addendum to  
Tower Grove Park East Gate Entrance  
(Grand Boulevard Entrance)  
Tower Grove Park  
4255 Arsenal Street  
St. Louis  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

ADDENDUM TO  
TOWER GROVE PARK EAST GATE ENTRANCE  
(Grand Boulevard Entrance)

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Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The gate stands approximately 632' south of the intersection with Magnolia Avenue and 668' north of the intersection with Arsenal Street.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.740200. 4276350.

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Significance: The East Gate on Grand Boulevard was designed as the principal entrance for vehicular traffic into Tower Grove Park. It remains an excellent example of the more formal type of landscape architecture popular in the late nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Between 1870 and 1872.
2. Architect: Henry Shaw. (MacAdam, p.26). For further information on Shaw see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park. (MO-1137).
3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Francis Tunica supervised construction. Grading was done under the supervision of John Mackay (TGP annual report to the Board, 1870). Zinc statues - two lions and two griffins - were acquired by Henry Shaw from Adolphus Meier (Berlin, Germany) for \$1317.85 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.64, 8/1/1870). White limestone was furnished by Eyermann, Wengler, Konze, Hanrahan, and Busking (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1871, p.7); John Hahn, Th. Konze, and Fred Wengler supplied the building stone (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1871, p.7). Foundations were laid by Koplin & Stay for \$1126.60 (TGP Comptrollers Report 1868, p.90, 12/16/1870). The cut stone work was done by Gottlieb, Eyermann, Busking, Brown and Schneider (TGP Comp. 1868 - various entries), under major contract by McCormick Connery for \$7766.06 (TGP Comp. 1868, p. 15, 12/13/1871). Shickle and Harrison were contracted for \$4577.50 to supply the gates and railings (TGP Comp. 1868, p.168, 5/14/1872). Final painting and gilding of the iron work was completed by John A. Tacket for \$200.00 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.172, 7/6/1872).
4. Original plans, and construction: In January of 1870 grading on the main entrance of Grand Boulevard was done under the supervision of John MacKay; some 30,000 square yards of earth were moved (TGP Annual Report). Foundations were laid and rustic stone cut and prepared (TGP Annual Report). Foundations were laid and rustic stone cut and prepared (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1871).

In 1871, cut stone piers were erected on granite bases; cut stone coping was laid on rustic stone work. The zinc figures (mistakenly called "Bronze Figures" in the text) were mounted on piers and granite balls on the pedestrian entrances. The site was then guttered and paved (TGP Annual Report to the Board (1872). Pine and cedar posts for the east gate fences were supplied by J. W. Peck for \$284.05 (TGP comp. 1868, p.4 11/11/1871).

By 1872 the iron gates and railing for the east entrance were finally put in place (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1873).

The total cost for the completion of the east gate complex was \$25,000. (Henry Shaw - "Synopsis of work done in the park from 1868-1872)."

In accordance with original plans a gatehouse or "police station," designed by Francis Tunica, was erected for the cost of \$8,000.00 some 200' from the east entrance in the park a short distance from the right of the drive (Henry Shaw - synopsis of work done in the park from 1868-1872). This small building is described by MacAdam (p.26); "It is not a pretentious structure, but is of pleasing design, and with its porches and painted roof, adds to the interest and animation of the locality. It is not large, but contains sufficient accommodation for a gate keeper, with rooms also for the convenience of visitors." The East Gatehouse was built at the same time (1869) as its counterpart behind the North Gate and by the same craftsmen. The foundations for the east gatehouse were laid by Isaiah Brown for \$455.12 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.11, 8/2/1869); John Meise laid the brick for \$400.00 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.18, 8/27/1869); iron railing for the door and windows was supplied by Pawley and Bro. for \$72.28. (TGP Comp. 1868, 11/8/1869); Joel McFern did the finishing work for \$360.00 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.38, 3/23/1870). E. Voight & Co. provided the glass and painted the gatehouse for \$282.43. (TGP Comp. 1868, p.24, 11/9/1869).

The East Gatehouse was demolished in 1912 in order to curb the park's maintenance costs (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1912, pp.11-12). A floor plan of the East Gatehouse can be seen on the large 7'-6" by 2'-6" framed plan of Tower Grove Park, of ca. 1872-75, probably drawn by Henry Thiele for \$60.00 (TGP Comp. 1868, p.160, 3/30/1872, and p.204, 5/22/73). It is now located in the Lehmann Library Archives, Missouri Botanical Garden 2315 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (See HABS photocopy in report of Tower Grove Park MO-1137).

5. Alterations and additions: In 1915 (the ironwork of the East Gateway was removed to accommodate a greater flow of automobile traffic, and traffic lamps were installed (TGP Annual Report to the Board 1912, pp.11-12).

In 1967 the Missouri Roofing Co. repaired the griffin statues and installed metal capping and cornices on the four pedestrian piers. Drawings, pictures, and bills of the restoration are kept in superintendent Gurney's file titled - "Metal Figures: Griffins and Lions."

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: In the right background of an 1875 view of Henry Shaw's party in a carriage in front of the East Gate can be seen the chimneys of the East Gatehouse, erected in 1860, and demolished 1912. Glass plate negative of the photo is in the office of Paul Kohl, former garden floriculturist, Tower Grove House in the garden. The same photo is in the Scottish Rite Library, and a newsprint copy is in the Lehmann Library Archives. (See HABS photocopy in general Tower Grove Park report). (MO-1137). Another 1875 view of the East entrance gateway, shows ironwork removed in 1915; and, to the right of center in the background, the Columbus Statue, and behind the Griffin Pier, the roof of the East Greenhouse demolished in 1912. (See HABS photocopy in general Park report (MO-1137). Another stereoptic image is in the files at Tower Grove Park. An 1883 view of the east entrance complex was taken from the southeast across Grand Boulevard. The roof and chimneys of the East Gatehouse (erected 1869, demolished 1912) appear just left of center. Note the wooden fence which extends beyond the stone end piers. The photo was taken from MacAdam's text and was his inside front title page. (See HABS photocopy). In 1907-1908, colored postcards of the east gate were issued. A frontal postcard view shows the gateway, piers and griffins, with the Columbus Statue in center, and the gatehouse porch. A view from the southeast is a closeup of gateway piers. The postcards are kept in Ms. Gurney's postcard file at Tower Grove Park. A closeup view from the northeast inside the park, a winter scene showing the interior iron gates removed, was taken circa 1920 and is in the Tower Grove Park Photo Files.

Miscellaneous photographs. Recent pictures, including details of the statues and pedestrian gates, are in the photo files at Tower Grove Park.

2. Secondary sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.  
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H., Tower Grove Park, St. Louis: R. P. Studley and Co., 1883.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The statuary, pedestals, and piers of large granite and limestone blocks in this curving formal gateway express grandeur and monumentality.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 250' wide, almost elliptical shape, two 7'-6" wide pedestrian gates flank one central vehicular gate, 53' wide. Terminal piers are 30' high, central piers 20'-8" high (24' to top of sculpture), pedestrian piers, 16' high.
  2. Foundations: Red granite blocks.
  3. Wall construction, finish and color: Masonry - blocks of limestone (gray).
  4. Structural system: Load bearing masonry.
    - a. Curving stone walls: The base walls are approximately 2'-3" high of rockface granite, dressed with smooth-cut limestone coping and support iron ornamental railing 5'-3" high.
    - b. Two pedestrian gates: Each gate has a pair of square piers 10'-0" wide and 16'-0" high with a coping stone and granite ball. The pier blocks are 3' wide.
    - c. Vehicle gate: The drive is flanked by two massive limestone piers 20'-8" high, with bases of granite which are capped with two cast zinc griffins facing one another. The pier blocks are 4'-3" wide.
- C. Site: The Gate lies approximately 632' south of the intersection with Magnolia Avenue and Grand Boulevard, and 668' north of the intersection with Arsenal Street on Grand Boulevard.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm  
and  
Peter Dessauer  
Field Historians  
National Park Service  
July 1974  
August 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.